

Wiredal.

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We have already noticed some of the picturesque aspects of Wiredal. The magnificent rock scenery of Melham Cove & Gordale Scar, for instance; we must now consider it as the seat of the great-manufacture of Yorkshire. That of wool & cloth. The valley of the Aire & that of the Calder, with the district that lies between them, forms the great 'clothing' district of the West-riding. Follow the Aire up from Leeds to beyond Keighley, follow the Calder from Wakefield to beyond Halifax, & you find the valleys bristling with mill chimneys, either crowded in towns or scattered in villages. Wherever a stream falls into either of these rivers, there is a nest of mills with many cottages. Nine small streams join the Calder, & in each of these valleys is a clothing town or village. Bradford & Alb., between the Aire & the Calder, is also thickly sprinkled with mills. Within a circuit of eleven miles from Bradford, a population of a million are gathered in thickly clustered towns & hamlets. The densest population in England after London & Manchester. It is only necessary to look at the rocky base of the streams to understand the location of the woolen manufacture in a land of rivers & water-courses: much water is used in cleaning the wool & in finishing & dyeing the cloth. Again, the clothing towns of the West-riding are planted on the South Yorkshire coalfield, which affords iron, also, for machinery. High & light, are the great ports of Liverpool & Hull; & every complete

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best hills. Here, is a ~~moorland~~ region, but
hardly mountainous. The land is elevated
exceeding 2,000 feet. Here, too, we pass into a
hill-stone-fruit country, close to the peculiar
features of the limestone; waterfalls, caves,
'pots', 'holes', 'scars', underground streams.
To the highlands. North of the River, between
Airedale & Wharfedale, into the two & half hours
above Penrhydding. Baidon Moor, Otley
Chadwick, a remarkable isolated hill with a fine
view of the Wharfe valley. South of the hill
further south & Blackstone ridge, the dry
moor over which runs the old canal. And
between, Keelings Moor, etc., are some of
the more remarkable. The hills, & the
glens or 'fens' of this north-western
district are, perhaps, its most beautiful.
The scenery of the Eastern Moorlands has
some features in common with the west,
though here, the moors are of volcanic formation.
The valleys are, for the most part, spread with
glacial deposits. Danby Beacon (966 ft) &
Easter Rib (784 ft) are both bold & conspicuous
heights north of the Rib. South of the Rib,
the land is much higher, many of the
hills exceeding 1,000 ft in height. As Barden
Heath, Lamdall Heath, & Lonsdale, all above 1,400 ft.
The whole of north eastern Yorkshire is an old
plateau, cut across by the valley of the Rib.
It is a moorland region cut into many
distinct moors by the wooded, picturesque
glens which run towards the Rib. on the one
hand & the Derwent on the other.

Leeds.

Of this cluster of busy towns Leeds, the fifth town in England in population, is the most important. It is a rich busy enterprising town, & naturally the great mills & warehouses connected with its staple industry are its most interesting objects. The mills, where many thousands of hands are employed are gathered for the most part round the river Aire which flows through the town, & you get some notion of the population of the place when the ^{12 PM} people pour out to dinner at noon. So great a labouring population demands many streets of small houses: the merchants & manufacturers have their pleasant dwellings in the fine suburbs of the town, especially about Roundhay, such a public park as few English towns can boast of. Leeds has, of course, its broad streets with fine shops & rows of imposing warehouses built with an eye to effect. The very fine town hall with a great hall capable of holding 4000 persons, is the centre of a group of important public buildings. The Museum of the Literary & Philosophical Society & the Leeds Library are especially interesting. From another point of view, as the White (undyed) Cloth Hall, the Mixed Cloth Hall & the Industrial Museum. Of the Churches, St. Peter's Renshaw Church is perhaps the most interesting, as the centre of the glorious & aggressive work of the late J. H. H. H. H.

Although Leeds is the greatest cloth market of the world, the weaving, dyeing, & selling of cloth are by no means its only industries. Here are great iron factories & foundries, as the Wellington & the Airedale.

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In this, due to engines & machines used in the mills, though seen in process of working, glass-works, brass-works, leather-works - it would be hard to name the manufacture which is not carried on to some extent in Leeds. After the various branches of the woollen, the linen manufacture is the most important, more linen being made in Leeds than in any other town of the United Kingdom, excepting Belfast. In great flax mills, where more than two thousand persons are employed, as at Holbeck on the Aire, a suburb of Leeds, & belonging to the Messrs. Marsden, there are amongst the largest flax mills in Europe. There are two mills, the older, like most other factories, but the new mill very remarkable, being a single enormous apartment on the ground floor, where all the operations of spinning & weaving are carried on. The roof is a flat, straw being down upon it to secure a more even temperature. Most of the flax used in Leeds is imported from France, Belgium & Holland. The arrangements for the work-people are very complete & considerable, including a church, four schools & a capital library provided by the employers.

Barnsley in south Yorkshire, 'Black Barnsley' as it is universally called, is also a busy linen-making place, noted for its damasks, sheetings &c. Leeds is no upstart place, but has a history reaching back nearly as far as English history goes. In early Saxon days, there was a little kingdom of Loidis, or Leeds, which both in the valleys of the Aire & Calder & Wharfe, was at one time ruled by a King Cordul. The town has had various fortunes since. When the Conquerors marched into Yorkshire to punish the north country folk for their heresies, he left Leeds a waste. Later, he read of a castle here.

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Perhaps because the smoky - laden atmosphere is disinclining
to enterprise, Sheffield has few striking ^{public} buildings.
The parish church, St. Peter's, is a fine fourteenth
century building, with ~~interesting~~ ^{remarkable} monuments.
St. George's Museum, on a hill beyond the town, Dr.
Percussion's gift, is interesting as an effort of
the apostle of beauty to contend with the ugliness
which necessarily follows around a great
manufacturing centre. The fragments of the
Mansions House of Sheffield Castle have another
kind of interest: in the Castle, which was dismantled
during the Civil War, Mary of Scotland was confined
for twelve years, & in the Mansions House, where she
occasionally stayed 'Queen Mary's' Chamber
is still to be seen. Here, too, Wolsey stayed for
eighteen days in the course of his last sad
progress. Few Yorkshire towns can show a
list of 'worthies' to match that of Sheffield: it
has not only its landscape painters, but its poets
& its sculptors to show. Chantrey began his career as
apprentice to a Sheffield carver & gilder; Montgomery
the author of 'The Pelican Island,' worked on a Sheffield
newspaper, & Thackeray Elliott, the 'Corn Law Rhyme',
was engaged in the steel business. Buckham practised
& wrote his 'Domestic Medicine' here. Mrs. Hemans
one of our earliest novelists, was born here, & so was
Creswick, the landscape painter, ^{at its junction with the River}
Rotherham, on the right bank of the Don, which has
a beautiful fifteenth century church (All Saints), &
there is a black stone town, ^{which is now} an important sheep market.
In contrast with the neighbouring 'black country'
Doncaster is ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{important} ~~Doncaster~~ ^{sheep}

Dispossession

except in the during the race week in September when the town is crowded, is full of interest & animation. The Doncaster races have been then amongst the most famous in the kingdom since the establishment of the St. Leger Stakes, by Colonel St. Leger, about a century ago. The town owes much of its prosperity to the vast numbers of persons who come here during the race week. The weekly event is the corn market, one of the most important in the North; for Doncaster is in the centre of a rich & productive agricultural district. It is not altogether without the noise of machinery for here are the principal works of the great Northern Railway. The beautiful church on the hill (St. George's), is quite modern, the work of Sir Gilbert Scott, erected by public subscription to replace the ancient parish church, with a celebrated tower, which was burnt down in 1853. Doncaster, occupying as it does, a commanding station on the old North Road, has had its share in every rising that has agitated Yorkshire. Thorough of Lancasters assembled his followers here: here was the centre of deliberation during the 'Pilgrimage of Grace'; where interviews were held between the insurgent leaders & the royal commanders; and, during the civil war, it was more than once, the head quarters of the Puritan forces. Cringingborough Castle, within four or five miles of Doncaster, is an exceedingly interesting spot: not only for the evident antiquity & romantic appearance of the ruins, standing as they do on a ~~mount~~ amongst trees on a moor. Which rises sheer from the "soft & gentle river Doon"; but because every reader of romance is familiar with Cringingborough which Scott made the home of Athelstan the Unready. Rough without much historical foundation beyond a name (Crings = kings), for the existing ruins are distinctly Roman.

Hawthorn, the sculptor, ^{Hutton} & Selby, the painter, were natives of York.

The York of today is a fairly thriving city, but its interest for the visitor lies in its ~~wooded~~ eventful past, & in such evidences of that past as remain - the maze of its narrow streets, picturesque groupings, occasional old houses with timbered fronts & overhanging stoops & in the historic buildings we have noticed. But York is no longer, by any means, the second capital of England.

About 5 miles from York is the battle-field of Marston Moor, celebrated as one of the two most desperately fought fields ever contested on English ground. In 1644, a good deal enclosed now, we then open for miles under sky, rising into a hill called Clump-hill, where there is still a clump of firs. The parliamentarians occupied this ground with a view to meet Prince Rupert on his way from Lancashire for the relief of York. But Rupert evaded them & got into the city; & when the leaders of the enemy, - the Fairfaxes & the Earl of Manchester - resolved to quit the spot & move south. When they heard that Rupert was in pursuit they passed round, occupied the hill from which they could charge down upon the Royalists. At 7 o'clock in the evening, the battle had begun. For the first hour, the battle was in favour of the Cavaliers but fortune turned, partly owing to the pluck of a select contingent, who mine o'clock, the Royalists were completely routed after feats of heroic valour. Rupert managed to escape by hiding in a bean field, but the Royalist cause received its death blow in this battle, where the slaughter of the Cavaliers was fearful. (July 2, 1644).

Lower down the Ouse in Selby, seated on the banks of a richly fertile level; it is a pleasant ~~town~~ trading town, situated at a point where the Ouse is broad & deep enough to carry vessels of considerable tonnage.

Thence, the point between the town is marked by
sailing vessels, is always crowded with coast
shipping boats. To the east of the town is 'Larson's
bark', an enormous barge containing a timber
forest, & yielding much profit. Here, throughout
the lowlands lying between the Great & Small
the process of maring is carried on with much
success. That is, the rivers contain much
floating matter - indeed, are half-murdered, & when
they are at their unclouded, they are left in upon
the land, & kept by clearing the channel until
the black mould held in solution is deposited.
It is said that three years of this process produces
wonderfully fertile fields.

In North Riding.

We have already spoken of the landscape &
configuration of the North Riding. There little
space to enter in detail into its interests &
associations. The Wharfe & Dale are as beautiful
& as romantic as those of the West Riding. Swaledale
belongs as much to Durham as to Yorkshire. Scott
is the poet of Swaledale, & has perhaps succeeded better
than has Wordsworth with the Wharfe in opening
its beauties to the world. 'Rothbury' is full of the
most careful word painting, every picturesque object
woven into the poem was carefully noted down by the poet
on the spot: High firs, fretted bridges, Rothbury, Wharfedale, - supposed
to have given name to the family of the Regent, are
as Scott painted them, only, perhaps, the description is
slightly 'more so' than the fact in one or two cases: only
the characters of 'Rothbury' are imaginary.
Swaledale is perhaps less picturesque than its two
neighbouring valleys - Swaledale & Wharfedale, but there is
no more beautifully placed town in the country than Richmond
the head of all this country after the Conquest.

Wm

As that in which the 'Lion of Glouern' is couched. This
was the den of the celebrated 'Dragon of Wantley' - Wantley
is supposed to be a corruption of Wharfedale: & near
at hand, rising amongst trees, is an enormous,
unaccountable rock structure - mammoth with
resting upon mammoth rocks. Which was too much
for even the Dragon, for, say the ballad, -

"None as valiant
Was as great a sturdy;
He at all, slept none behind
Save some stones, dear Jack, which he could not crack
Which on the hill you will find."

This tale of the Dragon of Wantley delighted Sir Walter
Scott, who alludes to it in the opening chapter of
Ivanhoe. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu lived in this
home of the Wortleys after her marriage.

In the heart of this lovely country - on a little
Purgatory of its own, where four tributary streams
join the Don - stands Cheffeld, out & out, the blackest
of Yorkshire towns. Everybody knows that Cheffeld
is the 'Metropolis of Woollery' - truly a metropolis,
for it has manorial rights over all Hallamshire
a circle of adjoining parishes, every village in which
is engaged in some sort of woollery-work. It was long
supposed that the yellow waters of the Sheaf - gathered on
the Derbyshire moors - had some virtue which accounted
for the excellence of Cheffeld blades: but, perhaps,
perhaps for lining the melting pots, ~~and~~ millstone
grit - for the grindstones are the only peculiar
advantages for steel making that Cheffeld possesses.
Cheffeld has coal & water on the spot; but iron for
the steel manufacture is imported, chiefly from Sweden,
Cumberland, Westmoreland, & the north of Wales (fields
some suitable iron ores for steel making. The manufacture
is a very old one. Cheffeld's motto, having a name for
excellence